

## **East Cascades Workforce Investment Board**

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2015  
11am-2pm

\*Attendee list circulated for all to sign

### **I. Introduction of Attendees:**

Board members (in person)- Chip Massie, Mark Warne, Debbie Hagan, Brenda Jones, Ellyn Biedscheid, Matt Balkwill, Amy Gibbs, Brad Porterfield, Patrick Davis, Roberto Gutierrez, Duane Francis; (on phone-none)

Staff to the Board- Heather Ficht, Liz Casey, Lauren Arbuckle

Other attendees- Frank W Brown, Mike Kennedy, Andrew Spreadborough, Damon Runberg, Stephen Hamway

### **Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Chip Massie at 11:06 am**

#### **All present introduce themselves**

### **II. Introduction of Heather Ficht by Chairperson**

Chip Massie introduces Heather Ficht as the Executive Director to East Cascades Workforce Investment Board, beginning December 14, 2015 in the office.

Heather Ficht introduces herself: Heather has worked in Workforce Development for about 15 years, 10 years at the WIB level. She is coming to us from Worksystems (WSI), which is the Workforce Board for Multnomah/Washington counties/City of Portland. Heather started in the business services unit working a lot in economic development and recruitment expansion, and first-source hiring agreements. After some time, she decided to move back to the youth side. Prior to WSI, Heather was a social worker for 12 years working with a variety of kids, and specialized in homeless youth for 6 of those years. She has invested her time in a lot of startups for organizations and different projects and is excited to begin helping our launch. On the youth side, WSI almost doubled their resources through alignment with some local funders and some city and county funding. Largest scale summer employment program in the pacific North West (including Seattle).

### **III. Consent Agenda**

- a. Consent Agenda: Move by Chip Massie to approve meeting minutes 11/19/2015 meeting and Agenda for today; motioned by Mark Warne, seconded by Amy Gibbs – unanimously approved by board.
- b. Skip approval of meeting minutes from previous meeting (still in draft form), and plan to send to Chair for approval, then post to Basecamp.

### **IV. Overview from Strategic Planning Event 10/23/15**

- a. Received framework from OWIB but must localize it into our 3 sub regions.

- b. Sector strategies to guide plan: Discussion re: possible ways forward to develop sector strategies.
- c. Damon Runberg Presentation on labor market information in each of the three sub-regions.  
\*slides posted on Basecamp

**V. Explanation and Formation of Sub-Regional Action Teams**

- Leverage resources to best align with business needs – clear connection between supply & demand
- Re-employ dislocated workers
- Connecting workforce to “living wage” jobs (estimate: \$17/hr)
- Identify local employer needs
- Prepare Emergent workforce (soft-skills)
  - Juvenile offenders-reduce recidivism (potential target pop.)
  - Focus on Vocational Skill Building (CTE)
  - Internships & Apprenticeships
- Re-invigorate business involvement in workforce development
- Creation of partnerships to address workforce issues unique to Rural Regions

**Sub-Regional Focus for Employer/Sector Strategy**

- Present LMI data to each sub-region
- Explore co-investment opportunities with businesses
- What’s compelling reason/hook to engage businesses (how to invest, training resources)

**VI. Introduction of Request for Proposals (RFP) Process: Purpose, Goals, Timeline**

There will be an RFP process in the coming months that will be open, fair and competitive to identify contractors to delivery WorkSource services guided by WIOA requirements and State Standards.

**Next meeting decided to take place in The Dalles on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 from 11am-2pm**

**VII. Public Comment Period**

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 2:00pm**